

Transitions

Paul Blank who has been in charge of maintenance retired after nearly 20 years with the Sight Center. Paul handled all maintenance and janitorial duties for both the agency and the workshop. He worked overtime many evenings to secure the premises after evening and weekend programs. He also was a great help at summer camps. Succeeding Paul is Ed Meidt who previously worked at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. Congratulations, Paul, and welcome aboard, Ed!

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As of August 29, the Sight Center said hello to Sue Perkins, our new mobility instructor. Sue hails from Dearborn, Michigan. Her undergraduate degree was in special education and her master's in orientation and mobility from Boston College. As mobility instructor she will be primarily serving Toledo public school children.

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Farewell to Beverly St. John, coordinator of the Sight Center's Prevention of Blindness Program. Bev will be moving to Syracuse, New York, where her husband has been transferred. We will all miss Beverly's unfailing good humor and wish her and her family well in their new home.

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Taking over Beverly St. John's responsibilities as coordinator of the Prevention of Blindness Program is Pat Knell, past president of the Toledo Optometric Assistants Association. Pat was employed by several Toledo optometrists before she temporarily retired. During her brief retirement, she was a volunteer at the Sight Center spending many hours doing pre-school and glaucoma screening. Welcome, Pat!

The Toledo Society For The Blind

Published semi-annually by the Toledo Society For The Blind, a Community Chest Agency.

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Mobility instructor Mary Reiff shows Evelyn Berry how to use a white cane. So far this year the Sight Center has distributed 63 long canes to blind and visually impaired persons. The Sight Center is the only agency in Toledo and one of two in northwestern Ohio through which the long canes may be purchased.

Benefits of Charitable Bequests

Following are a few suggestions for charitable contributions:

1. For those who have contributed in the past to the Sight Center, your support through your will will continue even after your death.
2. A charitable bequest can serve as a living memorial to a loved one.
3. Perhaps you have always wanted to help the Sight Center but never got around to it. A charitable bequest by will can be the solution.
4. Your dollars can do double duty by providing a guaranteed life income for a relative or friend through an annuity provision of your will that also makes a gift to the Sight Center.
5. A gift annuity allows a gift now, not at death. It bypasses probate court and will not be depleted by estate taxes or delayed by red tape.

For more information on charitable bequests, contact Barry McEwen, executive director, at 241-1183.

Johnny Bocanegra: A Zest for Life

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ing toward the first step—achieving a high school diploma. Five volunteers—Joyce Morris, Ida Cavanaugh, Nancy Burton, Joan Flood, and Mary Torchia—are tutoring him three mornings a week at the Sight Center.

The remaining days he studies with the aid of a tape recorder at home. Johnny hopes to be ready for the test in October. His studies for the G.E.D. began last January.

The Sight Center proudly salutes the women who give of their time and ability so freely to help Johnny and others achieve all-important life goals. Without them, many goals would be unattainable or at the least much more difficult to achieve.

Off to Camp!

A pre-school camp was held the weekend of September 12 at Camp Storer in Michigan.

Each child was accompanied by at least one parent. Programs focused on mobility and concept development with separate parent discussions led by professional counselors.

The reading Johnny has done throughout his lifetime will likely be an invaluable aid throughout his future years in school. He estimates his informal education to be the equivalent of three years of college. His own formal education ended in the ninth grade.

Johnny's favorite piece of literature is the Bible, of which he has 15 different versions. The book accompanies him nearly everywhere he goes. As a young boy, he says he loved to read Bible stories.

Does the thought of all that homework bother him? "I have worked hard all my life. Anything worth doing, you must work hard at to accomplish."

Judging by Johnny's past performance, someday soon he will have the word, "Chaplain," tagged after his name.

Helping with program coordination were pre-school teachers for visually impaired students from the Toledo Public School System.

Activities included swimming, horseback riding, and canoeing. A tired, but happy group of people returned home after the week-long slate of activities.

the SIGHT CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind

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No. 2 Volume 17—October 1980

Electronic Aids: A New Way



Jan Levine, executive vice-president of United Information Companies, Inc., teaches Gayle Krause, coordinator of rehabilitation, who is sightless, how to use a talking computer. (Photo courtesy of The Blade)

A 72-year-old woman who has enjoyed crocheting all her life can no longer read stitching instructions. She has had to give up a hobby in which she delighted for 51 years because her sugar diabetes led to severe vision loss.

A blind college student has been working with tutors who read his studies for him. It would be so much easier to work alone, but studying would be impossible.

A young attorney became blind after a tragic fall during a mountain climbing expedition. How will he be able to continue his practice without the use of his eyes?

All three cases are examples of the types of people who can benefit from electronic reading machines now available for demonstration at the Sight Center. The most recent addition, the Kurzweil Reader, transforms ordinary printed material such as books, magazines, and newspapers, into high-quality, full-word synthetic English speech sounding much like Tweedie of "The Buck Rogers Show."

For the lady who enjoys crocheting, the machine will read her instructions. The blind college student can study with "Tweedie" rather than with a succession of tutors. And the attorney can rely on the machine for reading business letters and important court documents.

The Kurzweil Reader now at the Sight Center eventually will be moved to the downtown Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for greater accessibility during evenings and weekends.

Last spring two staff people—Gayle Krause and Gail Sheffield—received 10 hours of training at Kurzweil Computer Cont'd on page 3

Johnny Bocanegra: A Zest for Life



Ida Cavanaugh tutors Johnny in studies for his G.E.D.

He's been a race car driver, rodeo rider, boxer, wrestler, and a bull-fighter. His great, great, great grandfather was a pirate and he himself is an Aztec Indian.

Ten years ago he endured three heart attacks during surgery performed as the result of a construction accident. Several days later, he suffered a stroke that left one side paralyzed. The stroke led to blindness. Doctors predicted he would never walk or see again.

Today Johnny Bocanegra does walk and he says someday too he will see again.

Determination, grit, and perseverance have been a part of Johnny's life as has been a deep faith in God. To overcome his paralysis, Johnny says he prayed

often and worked daily at trying to squeeze rubber balls tied by string to his hands. He did pushups to strengthen his legs. He wishes now he had a nickel for each time he fell while trying to walk.

But that's all "water over the dam" for the Indian who wears an earring in tribute to his pirate ancestor.

The self-taught 61-year-old avid reader who has such a zest for life is now preparing himself for a different life-style. Johnny wants to become a chaplain or become involved in some form of social work.

"I have had a wonderful life," he says with gusto. "But a lot of people need help. I want to help those people."

In line with that goal, Johnny is work-
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Their Hands are Their Guides

Visually impaired people can do needlepoint! The seven women who meet each Wednesday afternoon at the Sight Center are proof positive.

While most of the women have some sight, each depends upon her hands to touch and feel for direction and correctness of stitch. Under the direction of rehabilitation coordinator Gayle Krause and Amber Foster, special education student at the University of Toledo, the class began meeting in July.

The women started with a beginner's canvass of seven or eight squares per inch. Each takes her art work home for spare time stitching, and the following

week returns to class for either further instructions, if necessary, or to continue work.

The finished products? Most plan to use the decorative pieces in their homes.

Participating in the class are: Ronnie Kastning, Karen Taylor, Mary Patterson, Bessie Clemons, and Louise Martin.

Happy stitching, ladies!

(Top picture) Gayle Krause (left) demonstrates a stitch for Louise Martin. (Bottom picture) Ronnie Kastning and Bessie Clemons work diligently to complete their pieces.



"The Flower Shop" was presented by the Armchair Theatre of the Toledo Repertoire Theatre for Family Night in May. Pictured above (Top) are Sue Campbell and LaVerne Redden. (Bottom) Margaret Peters, Helen Harrell, and volunteer Stella Peters assumed cooking responsibilities for the dinner.



(Top picture) Time for dessert for 41 people who attended the Sight Center's annual Toledo Zoo outing. This year's picnic was in celebration of Helen Keller's 100th anniversary. A decorated cake was donated by Alice's Bakery on Starr Avenue. Zoo staff people brought the petting zoo to members of the Sight Center party for holding and petting. (Bottom picture) Jo Payne has an opportunity to handle a snake. Transportation for the event was provided by Lions Club members.

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The Sight Center would like to remind you that when walking or driving down the street, always yield the right of way to any person carrying a white cane.

By law, only those persons who are legally blind may carry a white or metallic cane on public highways, streets or alleys.

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Electronic Aids: A New Way

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Products in Cambridge, Massachusetts to teach others how to operate the machine.

Un sighted persons may also want to explore the Optacon, another electronic reading machine at the Sight Center. The Optacon scans lines of print and translates the letters into impulses which can be "read" by impressions felt on the index finger.

Several models of closed circuit televisions on hand are equipped with special cameras and screens that enlarge print to the size that is readable to the

Pre-School Blind Children "Mainstreamed" with Nursery School

A pilot program mainstreaming pre-school blind children with sighted children attending Toledo Day Nursery was initiated by the Sight Center in July. Basically, its purpose is to help blind children communicate more openly and play more freely with sighted children.

"The sighted children have been very accepting," Gayle Krause, rehabilitation coordinator, says. "They ask questions and then are satisfied with the answers."

The program also helped supplement pre-school programs that were discontinued for the summer.

For more information about the pre-school program, call Gayle Krause at 241-1183.

Holiday Greeting Card Season Approaches!

As of this writing, the Sight Center has in preparation a full-color flier describing holiday greeting card selections that will soon be available for the 1980 holiday season.

The flier includes an order blank for your convenience. If you do not receive this flier which includes all details, please contact the Sight Center, 241-1183.

We are pleased with the fine selection of cards being offered this year and encourage you to take advantage of the program for tax deduction purposes and an opportunity to help continue our current agenda of programming.

Our sincere thank-you for your past support!

The Sign Post



The Fourth Annual Lyle Kirk Lecture Series was held Thursday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Medical College of Ohio. Dr. Harold Fall of Ann Arbor, Michigan spoke on hereditary eye diseases. The public was invited to attend.

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Weekly group meetings for family members to share their frustrations in dealing with a loved one's vision loss will soon get started. The evening meetings will be open to spouses, siblings, or older children of our visually impaired clients. Call Ginger Martin to register your name!

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On October 24 and 25 the Sight Center will participate in Southwyck Mall's semi-annual Charity Bazaar. We will offer free glaucoma screening and urge volunteers to sign up to help. Training will be provided in the operation of the non-contact air-puff tonometer. For those who would like to donate crafts to sell at the Bazaar, please have them at the Sight Center before October 17. Also, for those willing to volunteer for sales help from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. both days (for even a few hours), please call Madge Levinson, 241-1183.

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The Lions Club observed September 12 for its annual candy day sale. This event is just one of the many efforts by the Lions Club to provide additional monies to the Sight Center to help the agency better serve blind and visually impaired persons in northwest Ohio. Our hearty thanks to the many dedicated members of the Lions Club!

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The Sight Center is a registration site for Golden Buckeye Cards for those individuals who are blind or have a severe visual impairment. For more information, contact Ginger Martin or Vicki Obee at 241-1183.